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**NEWS RELEASE**

# Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **MANCHESTER AIRPORT TO RECEIVE \$10 MILLION FOR RUNWAY CONSTRUCTION, NOISE MITIGATION**

WASHINGTON— U.S. Senators Judd Gregg and John Sununu and Congressman Jeb Bradley today announced that Manchester will receive \$10 million for two projects: \$2.5 million for noise mitigation efforts around the Manchester Airport and \$7.5 million for runway rehabilitation.

The funds, provided through the Fiscal Year 2003 Federal Aviation Administration budget, will continue the sound mitigation program in areas surrounding the Manchester Airport and continue rehabilitation on Runway 17/35. Manchester's main runway is being reconstructed from 7,000 feet to 9,250 feet. This grant money will also be used to enhance runway safety overrun areas, as well as upgrade navigational aids associated with the runway. Sound insulation will be done on approximately 80 residential units impacted by aircraft noise. To date, the airport has sound insulated over 600 homes in adjacent neighborhoods.

Senator Gregg, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee that oversees funding for the Transportation Department and the FAA, stated, "The expansion in air traffic at Manchester Airport provides enormous economic benefits, but the drawback is increased congestion and noise in the surrounding communities. The Manchester Airport's sound insulation program is an effective response to this problem, and I am pleased that the airport has received additional funds for its continuation. Likewise, the increased expansion has taken a detrimental toll on the runway and these funds will help to continue the renovations that are needed."

"This funding ensures that Manchester Airport has the resources it needs to continue smooth and safe operations in its expanding role in our region's transportation infrastructure," said Senator Sununu. "I am pleased that the FAA is committed to a continued noise abatement project while also helping to open the door to new travel opportunities for New England passengers and businesses."

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Congressman Bradley stated, “Establishing a noise reduction program and constantly maintaining runways are examples of the thoughtful and long-range planning which has allowed the Manchester Airport to be a major source of capital for Manchester and the entire state. These additional funds will go a long way in easing the noise burden on surrounding communities and ensuring that the runways remain in excellent condition.”

According to Airport Director Kevin Dillon, “receipt of these federal funds will allow the airport to complete a very important infrastructure project and mitigate negative impacts from airport operations. Improvements to Runway 17/35 will enable us to fulfill our mission as the premier airport serving northern New England. The sound insulation funds will allow us to address the concerns of our neighbors. We applaud the efforts of our Congressional Delegation for bringing this money home to New Hampshire. Time and time again, our leadership in Washington has demonstrated their strong support and commitment to Manchester Airport.”

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